

Putting Ireland on the Dissecting Table

By HUGH CURRAN

Dublin, Ireland, Jan., 1920.

IRELAND is to have Home Rule. Mr. Lloyd George, the Prime Minister of England, has said so, and it must be true. Mr. George has even outlined his plans, and the fact that all parties in Ireland have with a unanimity that is truly remarkable shouted out in one voice that they will not have the scheme which he has outlined, does not affect him in the least. In effect Mr. George's reply is "if you will not take my scheme willingly I will impose it on you."

Nothing that has occurred in recent times has so strikingly exemplified the paradoxical and chaotic conditions which exist in Ireland's present-day relations with England.

For 120 years Ireland has clamored for the restoration of her home government which was taken away in 1800, and now when a home government is offered to her she emphatically rejects it. To those who are only casually acquainted with the nuances of Irish politics this may seem strange; but in reality there is nothing very extraordinary about it. One has to remember several essential facts. The first of these is that the Parliament which was dissolved in 1800 was a Parliament for the whole of Ireland. What Mr. Lloyd George offers is a patchwork Parliament or, more strictly speaking, two Parliaments—one for certain portions of Ulster and the other for the rest of Ireland, with a joint super-council representing both. In fact Mr. George offers three Parliaments. Then there is the vital change which has taken place in the demand which is now made by the vast majority of the people who come under the classification of Sinn Fein. Ireland has always had its Sinn Feiners, that is, those who demanded not a self-governing Parliament but complete separation from England. Their voice, however, was faint and almost inarticulate during the long years of constitutional agitation carried on by leaders like O'Connell, Butt, Parnell, Dillon and Redmond. The vast majority was persuaded by these that the most that could be obtained was a constitutional Parliament for the whole of Ireland and within the Empire. They pointed out that England would not under any circumstances tolerate the total separation of Ireland, and so they concentrated on a Home Parliament. As against this the enemies of an Irish Parliament continually shouted that Home Rule would unquestionably mean separation and for years the electors of Great Britain were influenced by this cry and refused a majority in the Westminster Parliament to carry Home Rule. In 1886, however, the late Mr. Gladstone did get a majority in favor of Home Rule and on the strength of it introduced his great measure. It was, however, defeated by the defection of the late Mr. Joseph Chamberlain and a band of followers who split the Liberal party and killed the bill. Lord Rosebery made another attempt with no greater success, the House of Lords refusing to pass his meas-

ure. Other attempts were made with no greater success, but ultimately the bill of 1914 brought in by Mr. Asquith was put upon the Statute Book a few days after the declaration of the Great War upon which Mr. Redmond made his memorable speech declaring that "the war was Ireland's war as well as England's." That act unfortunately was "hung up"; it must not be put into operation until the conclusion of peace. It is still "hung up" and so far as one can see now will never be allowed to operate. Upon its actual merits there is in the opinion of many people little to be lost by the nullification of the 1914 Act, for its provisions have become obsolete by the changes that the war has brought about. The proper thing to do instead of scrapping the bill would be—if the present intention of Mr. Lloyd George was really to give real Home Rule—to improve and bring up to date the existing Act and put it in force. But Ulster through its Unionist leader has said that it will not have Home Rule and both Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George have promised that Unionist Ulster must not be coerced.

A few days before the House of Commons rose for the Christmas recess Mr. Lloyd George delivered a long statement on the Irish question and set out his scheme for Home Rule legislation. This scheme has been unanimously denounced by all parties in Ireland, but Mr. Lloyd George, apprehending its unacceptability, indicated that he proposed to impose the measure whether the Irish people liked it or not. Thus it is that not only is Ulster to be coerced but the population of the entire South and West are also to be coerced. Surely nothing more paradoxical could be imagined! A people which has been clamoring for Home Rule for 120 years needing to be forced to accept a Home Rule measure and by a Prime Minister who only a few weeks before had said that no Home Rule concession to Ireland could be thought of while the present state of unrest and lawlessness existed. In the circumstances it is hardly surprising that the general feeling with regard to the measure is that Mr. Lloyd George goes through the make-believe of giving a measure of local self-government to Ireland while he has in reality in his mind some other purpose. This purpose is said to be the placation of Irish feeling in America which has caused so much peril to the good relations of Great Britain and that country and which is believed, rightly or wrongly, to have almost wrecked President Wilson's plans for a League of Nations. If such was Mr. George's purpose it must undoubtedly fail, for if his measure is not acceptable to the Irish people at home, it cannot have any beneficial influence on Irish feeling abroad.

The real and essential cause of the opposition to the proposed measure is that it strikes a vital blow at the

unity of the country. In a word, Ireland is on the dissecting table with the governmental surgeons cutting up the corpus without any regard to the general health of the whole body politic. The operation is resented not alone by the great body of Nationalist and Sinn Fein opinion, but also by the four hundred thousand Unionists who are scattered throughout the West and South of Ireland. What the view of Ulster is with regard to the Home Rule which Mr. Lloyd George proposes to hand out to it has not been officially stated, beyond the criticism which Sir Edward Carson offered in the House of Commons when the Premier's plans were disclosed. He pointed out many of the difficulties which it would raise, but withheld his final verdict until he convened his Ulster Unionist council and consulted with it.

With regard to Ulster Mr. George's scheme is not a Home Rule government for the whole of that province. That would be ridiculous since if the province were polled in full it would probably, by a narrow majority, vote itself at once into the Parliament for the whole country. He has selected portions of it which are predominantly Unionist and with the four Northeastern counties as the nucleus he has chosen out areas in various parts to be associated with these. As the leading Irish Unionist newspaper, the Irish Times, says: "The government intends to piece out all the strictly Unionist parts of Northeast Ulster and to amalgamate them into a legislative province. It intends, in a word, to defy geography and to create an unnatural patchwork which must surpass the worst butchery of the Peace Conference." The principle of partition is hateful to all Irishmen, but this carving up of Ulster is perhaps the most heinous offense of all. The Unionists of the South and West resent partition of any kind and their attitude is that while they prefer the union with Great Britain they insist that if Home Rule must come it should be for the whole of Ireland one and undivided.

The Nationalist attitude so far as it has been articulated is against the scheme altogether. Mr. Dillon who nowadays seldom makes any political utterances, declares that he still prefers this act on the Statute Book with the necessary amendments which would bring it into line with present-day needs. The Sinn Fein organization absolutely refuses even to consider the scheme. Its attitude is that Ireland in the last elections of December, 1918, gave its self-determination verdict which was, it says, overwhelmingly in favor of an Irish republic. That republic, they say, has now been established, its Parliament has assembled under the title of Dail Eireann and even though it has now been suppressed by the British Government as an illegal body, it nevertheless exists and no action of the government can undo that fact.

Thus the situation now remains. In view of the outcry of disapproval with which the scheme has been met it will be interesting to see whether Mr. Lloyd George will proceed further with it.

The Wealthiest Indian in the United States—By H. O. BISHOP

OF THE 325,000 Indians in this country, Jackson Barnett, a member of the Creek tribe, living in Oklahoma, has the distinction of being the wealthiest of them all. He is worth very close to \$2,000,000.

During the war he quietly, and without the least sign of bragging, bought a million dollars' worth of Liberty bonds.

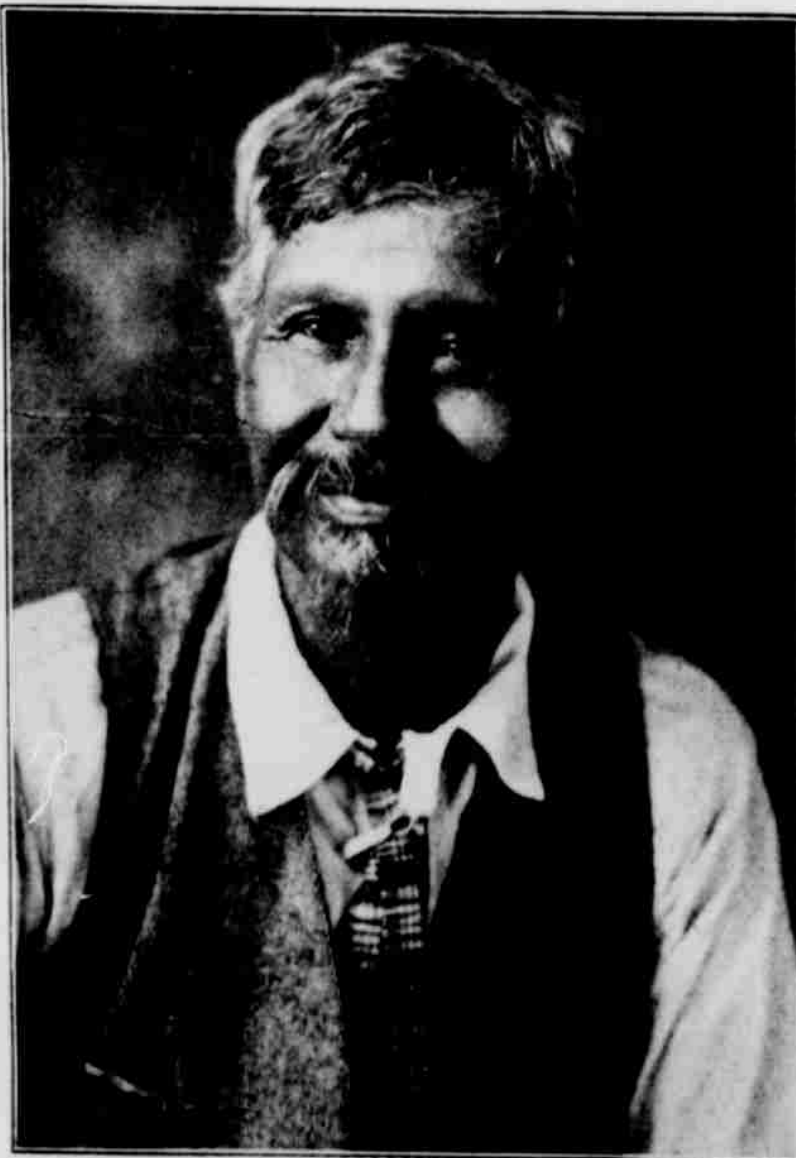
When the Southern Baptists recently started a campaign to raise \$75,000,000 for church and educational development, Barnett handed over \$200,000 as his share.

Some years ago oil was discovered on his allotment of land. Since that time his royalties have never been less than \$50,000 every month.

But the great outstanding feature concerning the career of this particular redskin is the fact that he continues to remain happy and contented despite this great wealth that has been thrust upon him.

His daily habits and general mode of living are practically the same today as they were back in the old days when the occasional procurement of a sack of smoking tobacco, a ham, a bag of cornmeal and a can of molasses brought joy to his soul and keen satisfaction to his appetite.

Barnett's sudden acquirement of vast wealth would have enabled him to hire two or three fancy French chefs, with a bewhiskered butler thrown in for good measure, and he could have daily indulged the inner man with all sorts of gastronomical dainties from angel food smothered in grape juice right on down the menu to snails' breasts garnished with spring onions, plus an occasional Welsh rarebit washed down with something suitable. In fact he could have eggs, butter and sugar on his table three times daily if he so desired. "Jack", however, continues to remain uncheffed and unbuttered. He likewise continues wearing his happy smile and maintains perfect health. There is nothing drab or fishy about his eyes; they sparkle. His few wrinkles come from smiling—not worrying. Each night at nine o'clock, disdaining such civilized contrivances as mattresses, feather pillows and pajamas, he rolls himself into his red blanket and, without a single worry on his mind, luxuriously stretches out



JACKSON BARNETT

on the front porch of his modest one story cabin and sleeps soundly, until the twittering of the birds awake him at daybreak.

Thus far none of the interested members of the fair sex have in the leastwise tempted this member of one of America's first families to plunge into society or matrimony. He is perhaps the only millionaire

between New York and Los Angeles who is lacking in such experience.

When it comes to personal comfort it will be observed that this unspoiled son of nature is ever a firm believer in solid comfort. His picture clearly indicates that hard-boiled shirts, stiff collars, and neckties that ruin a five dollar bill, are much removed from his thoughts. Coats, in his opinion, are to be tolerated only when the weather demands it. With the approach of the balmy days of springtime he also lays aside his snuff colored vest and plaid necktie and discontinues the use of the three upper buttons of his shirt. Another bothersome adjunct of civilization that apparently causes him no worry whatever, is the daily habit of shaving. He seems quite content to permit his meagre facial adornment to pursue its own course whither it will. He thus escapes the agony of over-estimated razor blades, moulting shaving brushes, and the seeking of hot water when there is none.

Golf, polo, tennis, croquet, yachting, aeroplaning, fox trotting, poker and other forms of outdoor and indoor sports have no appeal for this millionaire. When he feels the need of a little diversion he merely goes to his backyard, digs a few red worms, and with a fishing pole across his shoulder leisurely saunters down to the creek, where seated beneath the shade of a cottonwood tree, surrounded by all of Omar's accessories, with the possible exception of the "Thou" and the "Jug," he catches enough nice fresh fish for his supper and breakfast.

Not being burdened with a high-brow education, Jackson is not engrossed in any attempts at reforming or uplifting the rest of humanity. Neither does the stock market cause him any worries. He hires a financial agent to look after his surplus currency and when he feels the need of a little loose change in his pockets, he sends him to the bank to get a handful of it.

Doubtless the aristocratic neighbors look upon Barnett as a poor ignorant savage deserving of great pity for the many things he misses in life.

But what do you suppose he thinks of some of his neighbors each night when he snugly wraps himself in his red blanket? Is it not safe to assume that an amused smile plays over his features as he wanders into dreamland?